



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Law

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EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



226372

January 19, 2001

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TJ

Ms. Verneta Simon
On-Scene Coordinator
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Ms. Simon:

The Chicago Department of Transportation forwarded your letter of December 18, 2000 to me for response. The letter raises several issues regarding control over access to soils in certain rights-of-way in the Streeterville area that may be contaminated with thorium.

In response to your first points, I am informed by the Department of Transportation that the overall moratorium area of Streeterville subject to special permitting procedures (including both the area delineated in the Lindsay Light II right-of-way agreement and additional areas that the City has agreed, as a precautionary measure, should be subject to the same sorts of permitting and safety procedures set out in the agreement until more is known about them) is as depicted on the map attached to your letter. In addition, pursuant to my earlier discussions with your office, the portion of East North Water Street east of Lakeshore Drive (by DuSable Park) is also being added to the moratorium area and made subject to relevant restrictions on permit issuance.

In response to your inquiry regarding the measures being taken with respect to "after hours" emergency work in rights-of-way within the moratorium area, the Board of Underground (recently renamed the "Office of Underground Coordination," which also operates the Digger Hotline), the Fire Department, and the Departments of Buildings and Planning and Development have already been informed of possible thorium contamination in the moratorium area, the special permitting requirements that apply, and the health and safety precautions to be used when accessing soil in those rights-of-way. The Department of Environment is also contacting these agencies once again to ensure that they are aware of the most recent version of the moratorium area. Finally, notification of possible thorium contamination beneath the rights-of-way in the moratorium area and associated health and safety measures has been provided to approximately 30 utilities and government agencies that may be involved in accessing the soil on an emergency basis.



Ms. Verneta Simon

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Please contact me at (312) 744-6904 if you have any questions regarding the above.

Sincerely,



Mort P. Ames
Senior Counsel

cc: Comm. William F. Abolt, DOE
Comm. James T. Joyce, CFD
Comm. John Roberson, DOS
Susan Herdina, Law
Carmen Iacullo, CDOT
James LoVerde, DOW
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